

HOUSE No. 1214

By Ms. Callahan of Sutton, petition of Jennifer M. Callahan and others for legislation to establish local school health advisory councils. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Jennifer M. Callahan	Peter J. Koutoujian
Alice K. Wolf	John W. Scibak
Robert K. Coughlin	Anthony J. Verga

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 54B the following section:—
3 Section 54C. The school committee of each school district shall
4 establish a local school health education advisory council to assist
5 the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected
6 in the district's health education instruction.
7 A school district must consider the recommendations of the
8 local school health education advisory council before changing
9 the district's health education curriculum or instruction.
10 The local school health advisory council's duties include rec-
11 ommending:— (a) the number of hours of instruction to be pro-
12 vided in health education; (b) health education curriculum
13 appropriate for specific grade levels that shall incorporate the
14 Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework and
15 that may include a coordinated health education program consis-
16 tent with guidelines based on the American School Health Associ-
17 ation's Comprehensive School Health Program and the Center for
18 Disease Control and Prevention coordinated school health pro-
19 gram designed to prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease, and
20 Type II diabetes through coordination of the following nine elements:

- 21 (i) health services;
- 22 (ii) health education;
- 23 (iii) school nutrition services;
- 24 (iv) physical education;
- 25 (v) healthy school environment;
- 26 (vi) school counseling;
- 27 (vii) school psychological and social services;
- 28 (viii) staff health and wellness; and
- 29 (ix) family and community involvement.

30 The school committee shall appoint members to the local
31 school health advisory council. A majority of the members must
32 be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and
33 who are not employed by the district. The board of trustees also
34 may appoint one or more persons from each of the following
35 groups or a representative from a group other than a group speci-
36 fied under this subsection: public school teachers, public school
37 administrators, students, licensed health care professionals, the
38 business community, law enforcement, senior citizens, the clergy
39 and nonprofit organizations.

40 The department of education shall monitor and act as a clearing
41 house for the activities of the local school health advisory councils.

42 The department shall also notify each school district of the
43 availability of professional development opportunities on school
44 health issues.

45 Each local school district shall develop an action plan prepared
46 in collaboration with the local school health advisory council to
47 assist in implementation of the policy. The action plan shall iden-
48 tify steps that need to be taken each year to fully implement the
49 policy and shall include a review and appropriate modification of
50 existing physical education and health curricula.

1 SECTION 2. The department of education shall conduct a cost
2 analysis study under the direction of the commissioner and the
3 advisory board established pursuant to section 12 of chapter 6 to
4 identify the annual costs associated with continuously funding
5 comprehensive health education resources to be used by local
6 health advisory councils to assist in meeting district health educa-
7 tion action plans, goals and objectives. The study shall be com-

8 pleted and reported to the general court and the governor by April,
9 2006.

10 The department shall also notify each school district of the
11 availability of professional development opportunities and
12 resources in school health education issues.